

**Draft Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee Meeting April 25, 2018
McCarran Airport, Mezzanine Rooms 4&5**

Attending

David Alba
Jayne Harkins
Michael Hulin
Kara Mathews
Hong Nguyen Decorse
Carrie Ronning
Jon Sjoberg
Laura Vecerina

Katherine Dahm
Christopher Harris
Jimmy Knowles
Terry Murphy
Colby Pellegrino
Juanita Sammons
Jim Stolberg
Fred Worthley

Jess Gwinn
Riva Heninger
Bill Lamb
Wade Noble
Peggy Roefer
Laura Simonek
John Swett

Attending Via Conference Call

Bert Bell
Brad Esslin
Dana Sedig
Doyle Wilson

Jeremy Brooks
Maureen George
Stevie Sharp

Scott Bryon
Richard Kim
Linda Sullivan

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. by Jayne Harkins. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve October 25, 2017 Meeting Notes

The October 25, 2017 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Bill Lamb, seconded by Chris Harris, and adopted by consensus.)

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

It was proposed that Perri Benemelis, Manager for the Water Supply Program, Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, current Chair, and Jayne Harkins, Executive Director Colorado River Commission, current Vice-Chair, continue in their existing positions. (Moved by Wade Noble, seconded by Chris Harris, and adopted by consensus).

2. WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

FY17 Accomplishment: John Swett provided an overview of the FY17 accomplishments. He noted that the required program for FY17 was \$30,874,452. Reclamation proposed, and the Steering Committee approved, a budget of \$30,940,902. This included a proposed contribution to the Land and Water Fund of \$2,100,000. Actual accomplishment was \$25,626,026. No funds were contributed to the Land and Water Fund due to Reclamation budget cuts. Actual accomplishment was less than the approved budget of \$28,840,902 due to delays in developing Planet Ranch, resulting from the need to add the northern Mexican gartersnake to the list of covered species; a delay in starting construction of the Mohave Valley Conservation area; postponement of infrastructure improvements at the Imperial Ponds Conservation Area; and the delay of system monitoring of riparian covered species while the monitoring protocol was being evaluated. Reclamation incurred a funding debit of \$724,589. John noted that \$1,108,828 had been contributed to the Remedial Measures fund. John noted the current balance in the Land and Water Fund was \$15,400,000. John and the group managers presented highlights from their FY17 program (see the power point presentation posted to the website with the 4-25-18 meeting materials).

Proposed FY19 Program: John Swett indicated that based on a preliminary inflation rate of 1.441 the minimum required program funding for FY19 was \$31,938,423. He noted that Reclamation was proposing a program of \$31,991,974. This amount includes \$3,100,000 in funding for Land and Water Fund.

Draft FY19 Work Plan and Budget Review Schedule: John noted that the Work Group meeting to review the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishment Report was scheduled May 9-10 in San Diego. The Adaptive Management Group will be attending and presenting this year. Written comments should be sent to Laura Vecerina by May 4th. He noted that the Final Report will be posted to the website by June 20st.

3. PROCESS UPDATES

Northern Mexican Gartersnake: John noted that the amendment to add the northern Mexican gartersnake as a covered species to the program was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on March 5, 2018. John noted that with the addition of the northern Mexican gartersnake, changes were needed to the Funding and Management Agreement and the Implementation Agreement. It was decided that instead of listing each species covered under the

program in these documents, that the documents would reference Table 1-2 in the Habitat Conservation Plan and Biological Assessment instead. John reviewed Program Decision Document 18-001 which outlines this change. The minor modification was approved by the Steering Committee (Moved by Chris Harris, seconded by Wade Noble, and adopted by consensus).

Tracking Changes to Program Documents: John noted that with the number of minor modifications and the new amendment to the Program Documents that there needed to be a way to track all of these changes. He reviewed a proposal to prepare an additional volume to the Program Documents that would contain all of the proposed minor modifications and the amendment, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife approvals. An outline for this new appendix is included in the meeting materials. If anyone has any comments on this approach, please provide them to Laura Vecerina.

4. PROGRAM UPDATES

Mohave Valley Conservation Area: Terry Murphy presented a power point presentation showing pictures of the progress of construction at the Mohave Valley Conservation Area. He noted that the inlet and southern outlet bridges were completed and that marsh plants, mesquites, and cottonwood willows had just been planted. He noted that the land based excavations had just been completed and that they were in the process of setting up the dredging operations to complete the backwater project.

Alamo Dam Flow Releases – Bill Williams River: Terry Murphy showed a video of the Army Corps of Engineers flow release from Alamo Dam. The Corps began releasing the flushing flow on March 12th. The flow increased from a base flow of 50 cfs to a maximum release of 5,000 cfs on March 15th. He noted that the flows did reach the Planet Ranch Conservation Area, but did not have any impact on facilities at Planet Ranch.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina noted that the Work Group meeting to review the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishment Report was scheduled for May 9th and 10th in San Diego. A Steering Committee Conference Call is scheduled for June 27th.

6. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on three items.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.